

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent  
*Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15<sup>th</sup> District*



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## Congressman Dent hosts Government Reform Committee field hearing on Brownfield redevelopment in the Lehigh Valley

BETHLEHEM, PA — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) was joined by two colleagues in conducting a House Government Reform Committee field hearing titled “The Challenge of Brownfields: What are the Problems and Solutions in Redeveloping Pennsylvania's Communities?” The hearing was held at Lehigh University’s Rauch Business Center.

Congressman Dent, vice chairman of the House Government Reform Committee subcommittee on Federalism and the Census, was joined by U.S. Rep. Phil English (PA-3) and subcommittee Chairman Rep. Mike Turner (OH-3). The Congressmen heard from two panels of experts who discussed the need to encourage redevelopment of old industrial sites as a matter of environmental and economic policy.

“How we decide to clean up and re-use Brownfields across the country will be an important question to resolve as we go about the task of promoting industrial redevelopment, especially in those area that were once dominated by traditional manufacturing concerns,” Congressman Dent said.

Congressman Dent and many of the panelists touted Pennsylvania’s successful efforts at Brownfields reclamation and redevelopment, which Congressman Dent called a “model” for the nation. Before the hearing, the committee members toured the nearby, former Bethlehem Steel property, 1,800 acres of land in the process of being redeveloped into an industrial park and other developments.

During the hearing, panelists provided various perspectives on the issue of land reclamation and redevelopment. Panelists urged Congress to consider several initiatives that would help spur redevelopment, including a proposal by Congressman Turner to create a 50 percent tax incentive for qualified Brownfields projects.

(Click [here](#) for transcripts of testimony)

Panel I included:

- Jim Seif, Vice President, Corporate Relations PPL Corp. (and former Pennsylvania DEP Secretary)
- Eugene DePasquale, Deputy Secretary for Community Revitalization and Local Government Support, Pennsylvania DEP
- Abraham Ferdas, Director of the Region III Hazardous Sites Cleanup Division of the Environmental Protection Agency
- Robert Colangelo, Executive Director, National Brownfield Association
- Attorney Paul Schoff, Feinberg and Schoff

Panel II included:

- Kerry Wrobel, President, Lehigh Valley Industrial Park, Inc.
- Ray Suhocki , President and COO, Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corp.
- Chad Paul, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, Ben Franklin Technology Partners
- Stephen Donches, President, National Museum of Industrial History

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